OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

JUL 29 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Policy for Unique Identification (UID) of Tangible Items – New Equipment, Major Modifications, and Reprocurements of Equipment and Spares

Unique Identification (UID) is a mandatory Department of Defense (DoD) requirement on all solicitations issued on or after January 1, 2004. I strongly encourage the Component Acquisition Executives to incorporate this policy into ongoing contracts where it makes business sense to do so.

Contracts shall require unique item identification, or a DoD recognized unique identification equivalent, for all property items delivered to the Government if: (1) the acquisition cost is $5,000 or more, (2) it is either a serially managed, mission essential or controlled inventory piece of equipment or a reparable item, or a consumable item or material where permanent identification is required, (3) it is a component of a delivered item, if the program manager has determined that unique identification is required, or (4) a UID or a DoD-recognized UID equivalent is available. Existing government furnished property provided to contractors is exempt from this policy until January 1, 2005 when this policy becomes mandatory for all government furnished property incorporated into an end item. Unique identification will complement the Department's existing policy on serialized item management.

Component Acquisition Executives (CAEs) shall ensure their program managers understand the criticality of requiring UID and integrating this change into the appropriate business processes. All program managers for new equipment, major modifications, and reprocurements of equipment and spares shall begin planning to apply Unique Identification (UID) on tangible items using the attached guidance. Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) will be modified to capture the UID associated with each item. DoD Components are expected to transition rapidly to the WAWF as a mandatory payment requirement by no later than January 1, 2005. I encourage the CAEs to promote and fund pilot programs to apply UID to legacy equipment and their supporting AISs. A Joint Implementation Requirements Board for UID will be established. This Board will focus on business rules for enabling all AISs to use the UID as a primary or alternate key to achieve a globally interoperable network-centric architecture for the integrated management of tangible items.

The Department, along with its industry and international partners, clearly prefers use of constructs described in ISO/IEC 15434 to achieve interoperability in business intelligence. However, this requires ISO approval to add a new format to ISO/IEC 15434

for those ATA Spec 2000 Text Element Identifiers (TEIs) used in UID. The Department values the formal ISO approval process and is preparing to submit a proposal to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC 31 seeking approval of a new format for the TEI addition. That approval process is lengthy, and, in the interim, a collaborative solution is necessary to create a near-term interoperable environment for UID enhancements to business intelligence to support coalition operations. This solution uses the structure of ISO/IEC 15434 as the UID syntax standard and the business rules in the attached Appendix A. If approved, the new format shall be used and replace the interim "DD" format described in this policy. Consideration and decisions on marking approaches should carefully weigh any impacts to changing from the "DD" format to an approved future format against any associated costs and strategic near term marking requirements. ISO/IEC 15434 is and will be the Department's preferred approach on all new solicitations. The use of the collaborative solution format as described in the attached Appendix B should strictly be considered an interim approach.

By October 1, 2003, the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy will publish an interim rule that modifies the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations to capture the acquisition cost of tangible items, and place UID on them coincident with their acquisition. A subsequent rule will be issued to finalize government furnished property requirements prior to January 1, 2005.

A DoD UID Program Management Office will be established to manage UID implementation. The Office charter will have a provision for completing its work and transferring any continuing efforts to the DoD Components. For the time being, the UID Integrated Product Team (IPT) will continue to work on issues in the following areas:

- Participate in the ISO/IEC SC 31 process to obtain approval of an amendment to ISO/IEC 15434.
- Develop policy modifications to MIL-STD-129, MIL-STD-130, DoD 4140.1-R, DoDI 5000.2, DoDI 5000.64, DoD 7000.14-R, CJCSI 3170.1C, DCMA One Book, and Military Handbook 61A to ensure synchronized policy execution.
- Publish an on-line users guide on UID requirements and application.
- Determine minimum architecture/systems requirements to capture UID information at inspection and acceptance and identify opportunities for rapid implementation.
- Oversee any UID demonstration programs.
- Develop training and education materials working in partnership with the Defense Acquisition University.
- Conduct outreach and communication to promote adoption of UID by the Department and its industry and international partners.

This guidance supersedes my memoranda of December 19, 2002 and April 4, 2003, where I promised to issue a mandatory UID policy no later than July 2003. Additional information and a DoD Unique Identification Guide are at http://www.acq.osd.mil/uid. The point of contact is Mr. Robert Leibrandt. Please address your questions to him at (703) 695-1099 or by email at robert.leibrandt@osd.mil.

Michael W. Wynne
Acting

Attachments:
As stated

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